

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-49 and 53 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 50-52 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein, claim 53 is added and claims 2, 4, 6, 18, 23, 28-32, 34, 38-40 and 46 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-16, 20, 22, 24-27, 37 and 48 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4-13, 17-19, 21, 23, 28-36, 38-47 and 49-52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 2302092 (GB '092) in view of GB 1485388 (GB '388) and Reichert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,710,404). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the cancellation of claims 1 and 50-52 renders their rejection moot. Moreover, all the remaining dependent claims now depend on allowable claims 14 and 26. Thus, because claims 14 and 26 are allowed, all the pending claims, including new claim 53, are now also allowed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2, 4-49 and 53 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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